

NINTH NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE BILL
NO. 9-209

FOURTH REGULAR SESSION, 1995

AN ACT

To provide for a special election to consider proposed amendments to the Constitution submitted by the Third Northern Mariana Islands Constitutional Convention.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE NINTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

Section 1. Title. This Act shall be known as the Special Constitutional Amendment Election Act of 1995.

Section 2. Findings. The Legislature finds that the Pre-Convention Committee of the Third Constitutional Convention has requested that the Legislature provide a special election to consider constitutional amendments, instead of placing the amendments on the ballot of the general election of November 1995.

There are two compelling reasons for holding a special election. First, the Convention completed its work on August 3, 1995. This allows only three months for public education, discussion and debate. These important issues should be given more time.

Second, if the amendments are placed on the general election ballot, it is likely that the constitutional issues will become part of the general election campaign and will be mixed with partisan politics.

For these reasons, the Legislature finds that amendments should be considered separately, in a special election to be held at least six months after the end of the Convention.

Section 3. Special Election.

(a) Authority. Pursuant to Article XVIII, Section 5(a) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth Legislature hereby provides for a special election to consider those amendments to the Constitution which may be proposed by the Third Northern Mariana Islands Constitutional Convention.

(b) Date of Election. The special election shall be held on the first Saturday of March 1996.

(c) Scope of Election. The election shall only consider those constitutional amendments proposed by the Third Constitutional Convention.

Section 4. Severability. If any provision of this Act or the application of any such provision

to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

Section 5. Savings Clause. This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of this Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence at the date this Act becomes effective.

Section 6. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

CERTIFIED BY:

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ Juan S. Demapan
JUAN S. DEMAPAN
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

/s/ David M. Cing
DAVID M. CING
SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY

Approved this 6th day of October, 1995.

/s/ Froilan C. Tenorio
FROILAN C. TENORIO
GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS